

The Express



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring break and some extra family time together. After another long, cold winter, let's hope warmer weather is here to stay.

On April 23 & 24 we will be conducting our parent/teacher conferences. Please note there are no regular classes or lunch bunch classes held on those days. The Bunnies teachers will meet with parents on Wednesday, April 22nd in lieu of class that day. All other classes will meet as usual on the 22nd. Sign-up sheets for conferences are posted outside each classroom. If you do not get to school regularly and would like me to sign you up for a conference time I am happy to do so; just give me a call or send an email indicating a time preference. Parent/teacher conferences are an opportunity to have a face to face conversation with your child's teachers to discuss how your child is doing in school and discuss their developmental progress. I am sure you will find them both beneficial and insightful.

I have had questions from parents both this year and in years past asking if we hold a graduation ceremony at years end for our Pre-K classes. I want to take a moment to address this and let you know what we do here at NCNS to prepare the children for their transition to kindergarten. We do not hold a graduation ceremony for several reasons. We feel the children are just beginning their schooling, so the concept of graduating seems very misleading. This is just the beginning of their education; not the culmination. In addition, for some children the preparation it would take to prepare for a "ceremony" would put undue stress upon them and make them more anxious. Instead, we concentrate on preparing the children for the transition to their elementary school and try to ease their fears of leaving the safety and security of our small school so they feel comfortable and excited for their new school. In preparation, the teachers will ask you to sit down with your child and write down a list of their summer plans. I compile a list for the teachers indicating the corresponding elementary school for each child (I will send this list to all Pre-K parents as well). The teachers then create a visual board of all the elementary schools in the area (either a photograph or other visual reference). Each child will have an opportunity to tell their classmates what their summer plans are (since this comes before kindergarten) and then they will tell their classmates which elementary school they will attend in the fall. They will also be able to either put a popsicle stick with their name on it or another visual (could be a photo of themselves) transferring it into their corresponding elementary school. This also gives the children the opportunity to see who will be attending kindergarten with them, which is very reassuring to the children. We have followed this process for several years and feel it is a wonderful way to ease the children's fears as well as prepare them for their next step in their education. All Pre-K parents will receive a special edition newsletter explaining this process and the details in their particular classroom. We will try to include a few photos as well. Hopefully some of you will be able to see this process first hand on your special day in your child's classroom. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any concerns you have pertaining to your child.

Warm Regards,
~Gail



Last Week of School Class Schedule

Monday, May 18th

9:00am - 11:15am: Turtles & Dolphins
9:15am - 11:15am: Bunnies
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas

Tuesday, May 19th

9:00am - 11:15am: Turtles & Ducklings
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas

Wednesday, May 20th

9:00am - 11:15am: Dolphins
9:15am - 11:15am: Bunnies
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas

Thursday, May 21st - Last Day of School

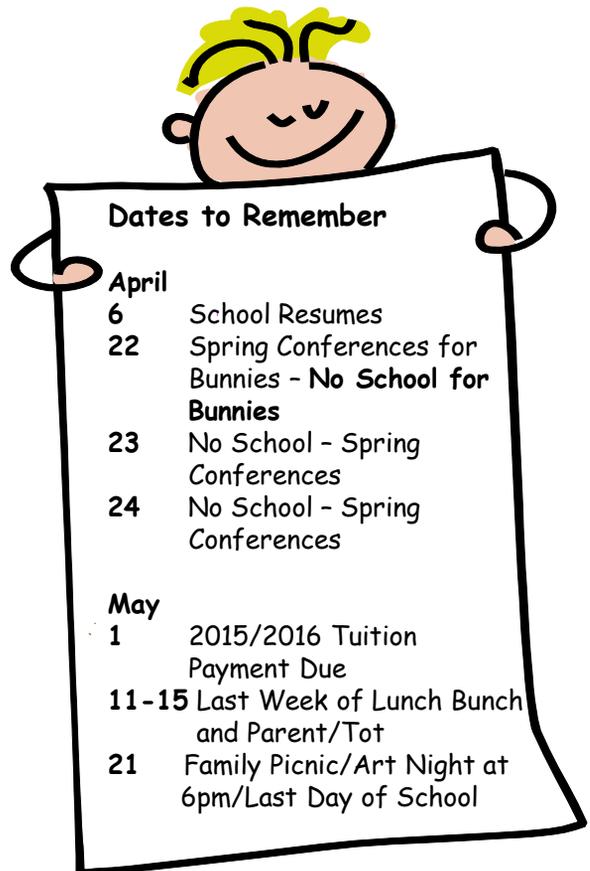
9:00am - 11:15am: Turtles & Ducklings
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas
6:00pm - 7:30pm: FAMILY PICNIC/ART NIGHT at NCNS



****The last week for Lunch Bunch and Parent/Tot is May 11th - May 15th.****

April Birthdays

Evan Anderson
Bridget Beach
Leni Berman
Lyla Dickson
Maddie Junkmann
Maddy Kohl
Andrew Novak
Samuel Shatek



Car Magnet Contest

Congratulations to Lauren Schifferdecker and Michaela Ward, winners of the March Car Magnet Contest!



They won \$10 Starbucks gift cards just for displaying NCNS magnets on their cars. Show your NCNS pride all year round, and keep those magnets in place for the summer.

Save the Date

NCNS at the Northbrook Fourth of July Parade



As always, NCNS will be marching in the Northbrook 4th of July parade. Bring your decorated strollers or wagons and your little ones can enjoy the parade with the NCNS families. Look for an email this summer with further information.

Save the Date

NCNS at the Northbrook Sidewalk Sale

Enjoy the 2015 Northbrook Sidewalk Sale on Friday, July 10th and Saturday, July 11th from 9am - 3pm. NCNS will be volunteering with pony ride ticket sales.



Save the Date

NCNS at the Northbrook Days Goldfish Booth
August 5th - 9th



We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the Goldfish booth at Northbrook Days. Two hour shifts are available and the time flies by with all the fun! Please contact Sarah Fink at sarahbfink@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

Enrollment Time



If you haven't already enrolled for the 2015-2016 school year or know of someone who is considering enrolling please contact Gail Nemoy at 847-272-5430 or Molly Brown at 847-272-8414 for additional information.

Baby News!

Congratulations to Brandon, Bethany and big sister Keira Ngo on the birth of Andrew!



Dan the Fish Monger from Sunset Foods Visits

In culmination of our Under the Sea unit, Dan the fish monger from Sunset Foods came to school to talk to the children about various fish and their habitat. He brought with him several varieties of fish/seafood including a crab, lobster, octopus, red snapper and shark. After a short presentation, the children were able to touch the different species as well as ask any questions. This hands on experience is always a hit! We thank Sunset Foods and Dan for this truly unique and amazing experience.



Saying Farewell to Cynthia Pollak

At the end of this school year, Cynthia Pollak will be retiring after two decades as a teacher at NCNS. To say that she will be missed is an understatement.

She first started at NCNS in 1995 as an Assistant Teacher, hired to serve as an aide for a child with special needs. In the years since, she has taught virtually every class NCNS has offered - Mom and Tot classes, 3 Days 3's, Mixed 3 and 4 year old classes, 5 Day 4's, Kindergarten Enrichment classes and even Lunch Bunch.

Cynthia brings something special to each class she has taught. Her warm smile and extreme patience has made even the most nervous preschooler comfortable, and its not uncommon to see previous students stop by for a hug or a chat if they see her in the hall. Her students have enjoyed the creativity that she brought to NCNS - from teaching the popular Wood Working unit to cooking up tasty new recipes to enhance lessons.

She has enjoyed her time at NCNS and will miss the children and their parents, Gail and the staff, and the challenge of teaching creatively. She said that she has grown as a teacher thanks to Gail and some of the best teachers she has known.

In the next chapter of her life, Cynthia will be doing much of the same - spending time with children and helping out where she can! She plans to spend lots of time with her six grandchildren (Jenay, James, Taylor, Jazyman, Jayden and Sophie) and hopes to work with CASA as a court appointed child advocate. She would like to spend more time with her husband, Andrew, and children, Thomas, Cary, Melissa and Naomi; and hopes to work on her home in Chicago and on her kiln art.

Cynthia, we wish you all the best as you retire from service at NCNS. We will miss you and are so appreciative of your years of dedication. Enjoy the time with your family and friends, and please be sure to stop in for the occasional hug or chat!

The NCNS Board and Gail Nemoy



Art Night/Family Picnic @ NCNS

Thursday, May 21st, 2015
6-7: 30 p.m.



Come to NCNS and admire artwork made with pride by our favorite little artists!

Stay for some eats by the Louie B. Fresh Food Truck! Bring a picnic blanket to enjoy dinner on the lawn with your family and friends, if the weather permits.



Then inside, you will find an art “scavenger hunt” and prizes for the kids! Be sure to take home your child’s matted artwork at the end of the night.



This is a special event to end the school year and say goodbye for the summer. Hope you can join us!

JUNIPER

NORTHBROOK, IL



Mom's Night Out!

1346 Shermer Road, Northbrook

Juniper opened in the fall of 2013 by best friends -- one a former producer for The Oprah Show, the other with a design background from the Art Institute and former Board President of NCNS! Thus in support of NCNS and the love she shares for our preschool, they are opening their doors to a host a special evening for us!

Swing by to enjoy some drinks & appetizers, catch up with friends, browse their new spring and summer finds, or buy your mom a special Mother's Day gift. Invite your friends too!

When: Thursday, April 23, 2015
Where: 1346 Shermer Road in downtown Northbrook
Time: 5pm-9pm (or shop anytime during the day 10am-close)



Juniper is donating 15% of all purchases made that day back to NCNS!